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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 1:47pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Please accept the Microsoft Settlement and finish this case. Quit spending taxpayer money on this matter. And please don't accept any more lawsuits about this. Microsoft should not have to be tried again on the same or a related matter.

The United States government should never have been involved in a lawsuit against Microsoft in the first place. I disagree with the current anti-trust laws. The government has no business fighting against corporations of our fellow citizens, unless they are doing something actually criminal (such as covering up drug operations or terrorist activities, etc.)

AT&T should never have been broken up, either. Large size and creativity are not criminal. Making a product widely available is not criminal. Competitors have the burden of competing, that is, of finding their own innovative ways to make a place for themselves in the market. Competitors should not have the government's and taxpayers' help to become bullies. Competitors could ask the taxpayers to help fund better education for future employees for the workforce, in general.

The companies that could not hire the brains to figure out ways to effectively compete with Microsoft had no right to take their competitor to court. Rather than wasting taxpayer's time and money on a lawsuit, they and the government should have spent the money encouraging the education of potential scientists, engineers, computer programmers, etc. They should have screened potential applicants and sent them to appropriate schools, keeping a close eye on the quality of training they were receiving. What a difference this would have made!

This country's level of science training has fallen behind what it was in the 1960's under President Kennedy. We should not hinder good thinking and the resulting sensible business practices. We should encourage scientific and technological education, research, and progress.

This is relevant to the present case, because, as I mentioned above, the lack of good potential employees for competing companies is one of the reasons that a case like this ever came to be.

Thank you.

MaryAnn Stuart